

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-41 are pending in the present application. Claims 16-29 and 37-41 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1 and 30 are independent claims. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the outstanding rejections in view of the following Remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 5-8 as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Drawings

In page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Figs. 11-13, 15, and 19, and suggested various corrections to overcome the objections. Attached herewith are corrected formal drawings in which Applicant has implemented the Examiner's suggested corrections. It is respectfully submitted that these changes do not add any new matter to the present application. In view of the corrected drawings, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 9, 11-13, 30, 33, and 34 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,445,767 to Kawazoe (hereinafter Kawazoe). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 30 recite, *inter alia*, "storing a predetermined photographing condition relating to at least one of an expression and a characteristic feature of an aimed object in the image of the subject." Thus, in claims 1 and 30, the recited characteristic feature belongs to the aimed object. Accordingly, the claimed invention provides the camera user a more satisfactory timing, without requiring much effort from the user. Applicant respectfully submits that Kawazoe fails to disclose this feature.

In page 4 (section 7) of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner cites Kawazoe's disclosure of "distance position, which determines whether or not the object is in or out of focus" as providing a teaching of the characteristic feature of an aimed object recited in claims 1 and 30. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's assertion.

In col. 6, lines 20-23, Kawazoe teaches that "[w]hen the object reaches the preset distance position, and is therefore in the in-focus state, the focus control circuit 33 detects the in-

focus state." The preset distance position is a position of the object relative to the camera. It is not a characteristic feature of the aimed object itself.

As such, Applicant respectfully submits that Kawazoe fails to disclose storing a photographing condition relating to either an expression or characteristic feature of an aimed object, as required by claims 1 and 30.

It is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 30 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above. Furthermore, Applicant submits that claims 9, 11-13, 33, and 34 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on claims 1 and 30. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2-4, 14, 15, 31, 32, 35, and 36 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawazoe in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,619,264 to Yoshimura et al. (hereinafter Yoshimura). Applicant respectfully submits that Yoshimura does not remedy the deficiencies of Kawazoe, which are set forth above in connection with claims 1 and 30. Thus, Applicant submits that claims 2-4, 14, 15, 31, 32, 35, and 36 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on independent

claims 1 and 30. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawazoe in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,946,506 to Uematsu (hereinafter Uematsu). Applicant respectfully submits that Uematsu fails to remedy the deficiencies of Kawazoe set forth above in connection with independent claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 10 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency on claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Conclusion

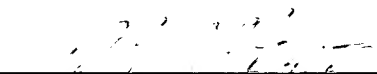
Entry and consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested. In view of the above Remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the various rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance in connection with the present application.

Should the Examiner believe that any outstanding matters remain in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Jason W. Rhodes (Reg. No. 47,305) at the telephone number of the undersigned in order to discuss the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: Replacement Sheets of Drawings (5)
Annotated Sheets of Drawings (5)

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 11-13, 15 and 19. These sheets replace the original sheets including Figs. 11-13, 15 and 19. In Figs. 11-13, 15 and 19, Applicants have made the changes suggested by the Examiner in page 3 of the outstanding Office Action.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (5)
 Annotated Sheets Showing Changes (5)

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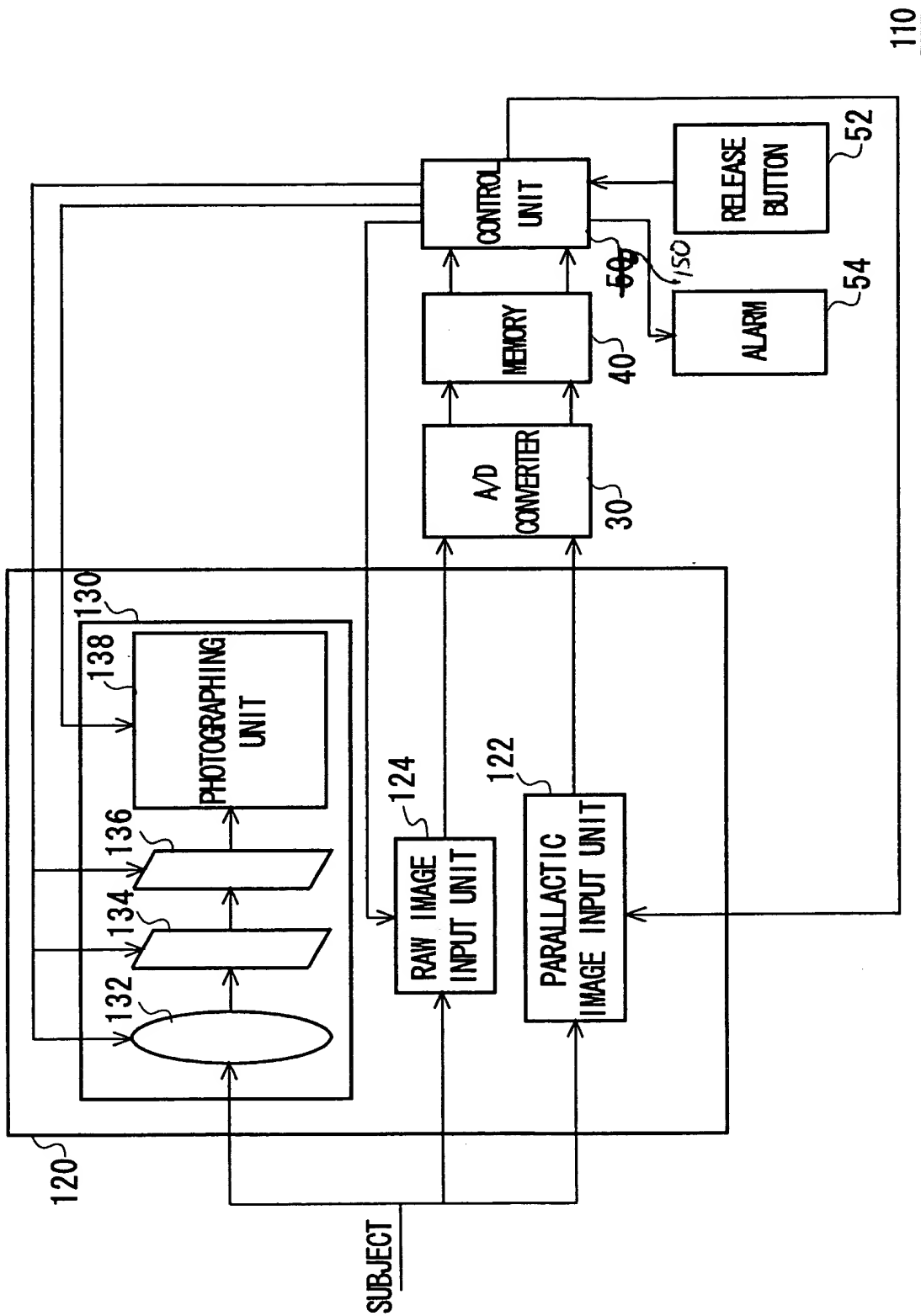


FIG. 11

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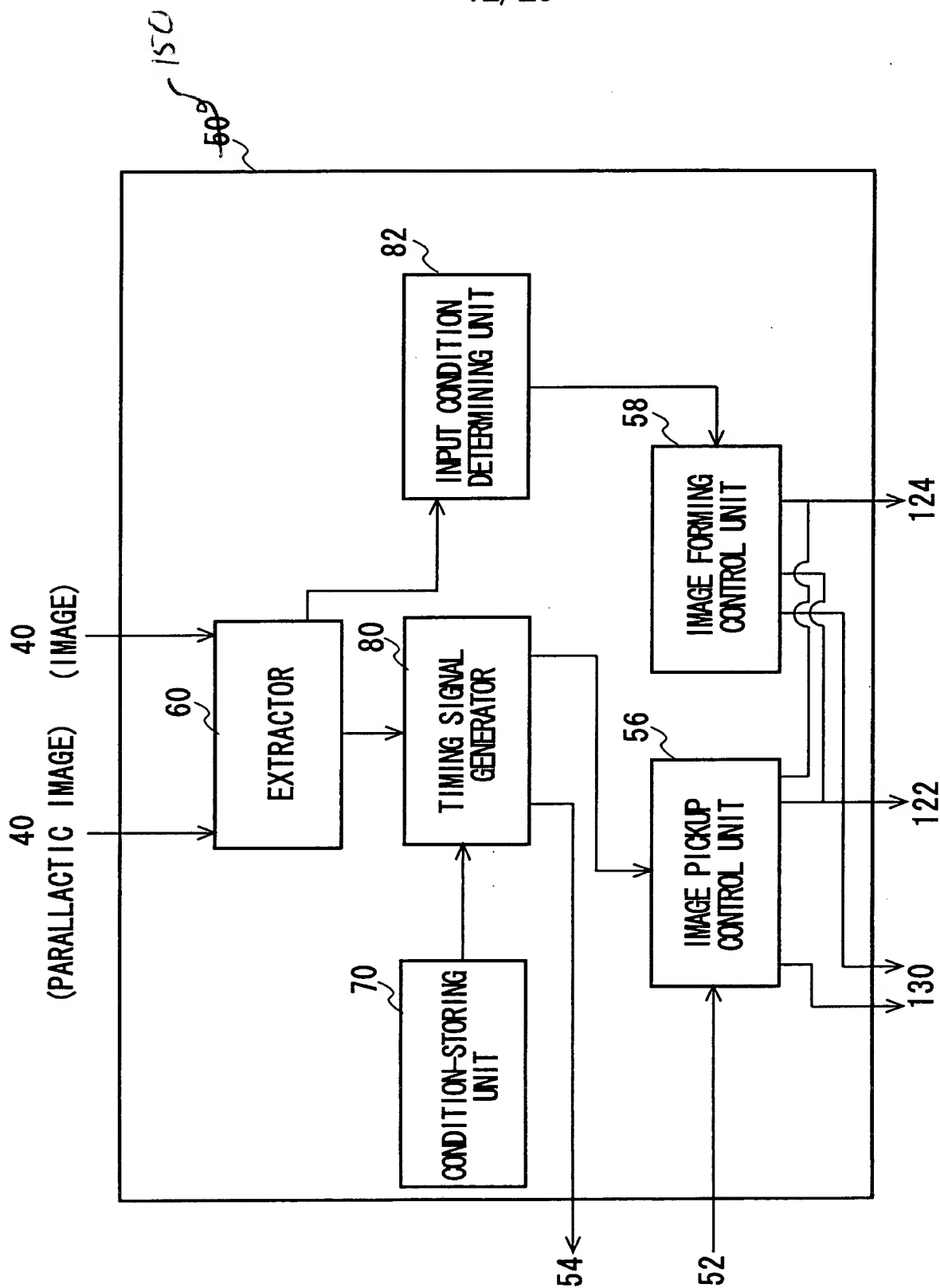


FIG. 12

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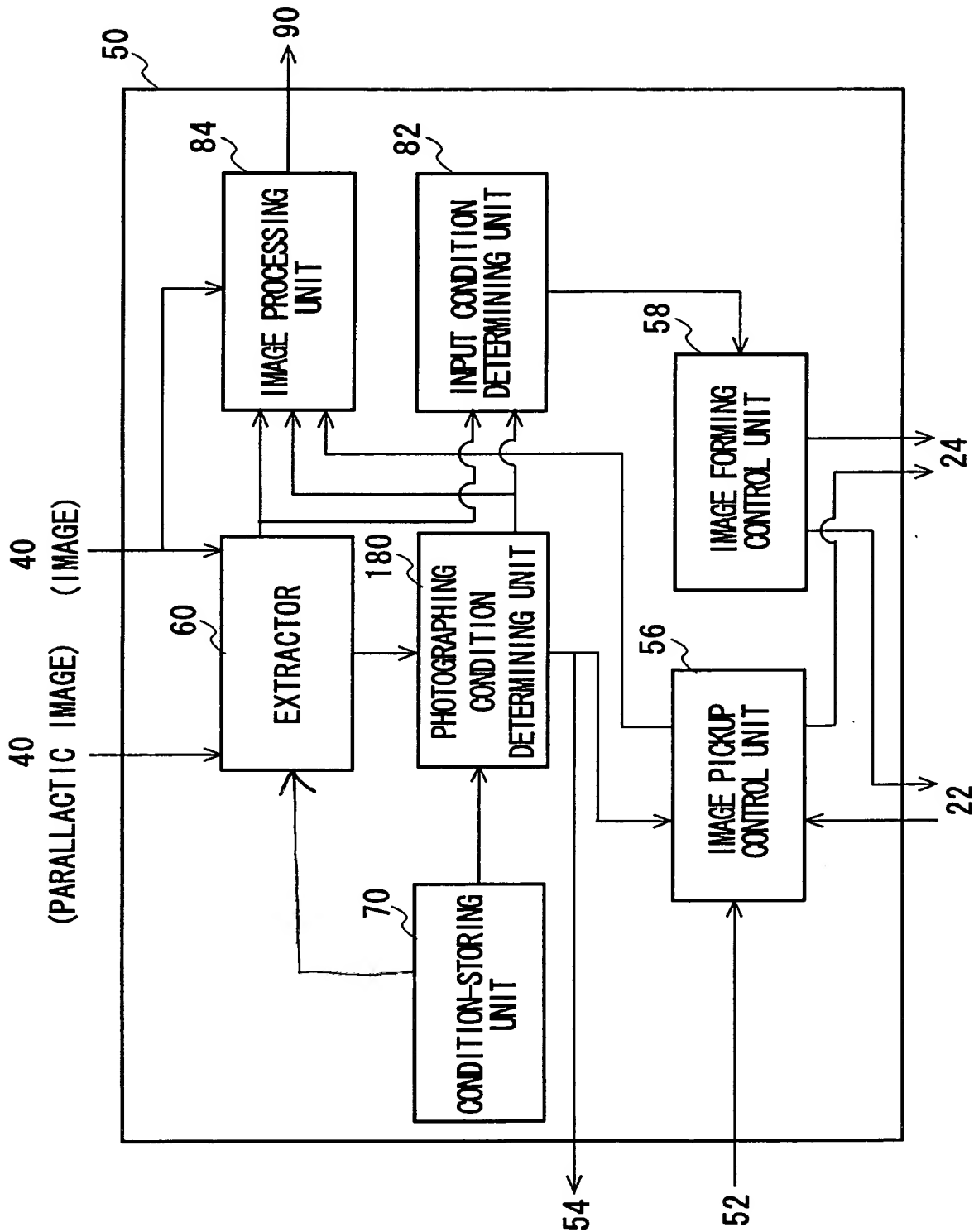


FIG. 13

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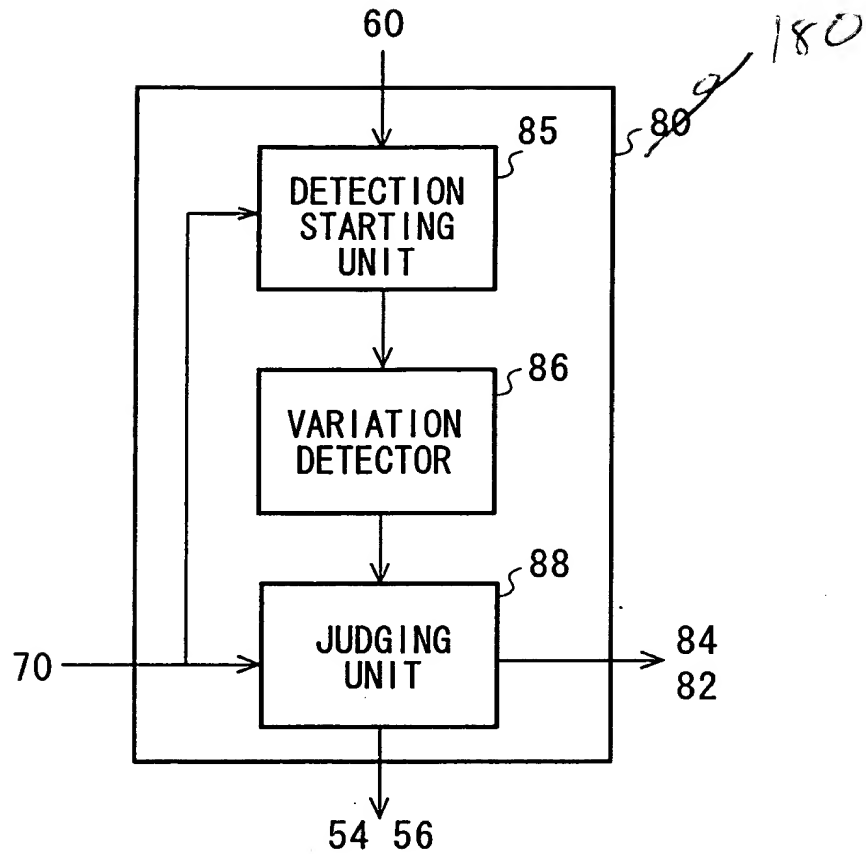


FIG. 15

S110

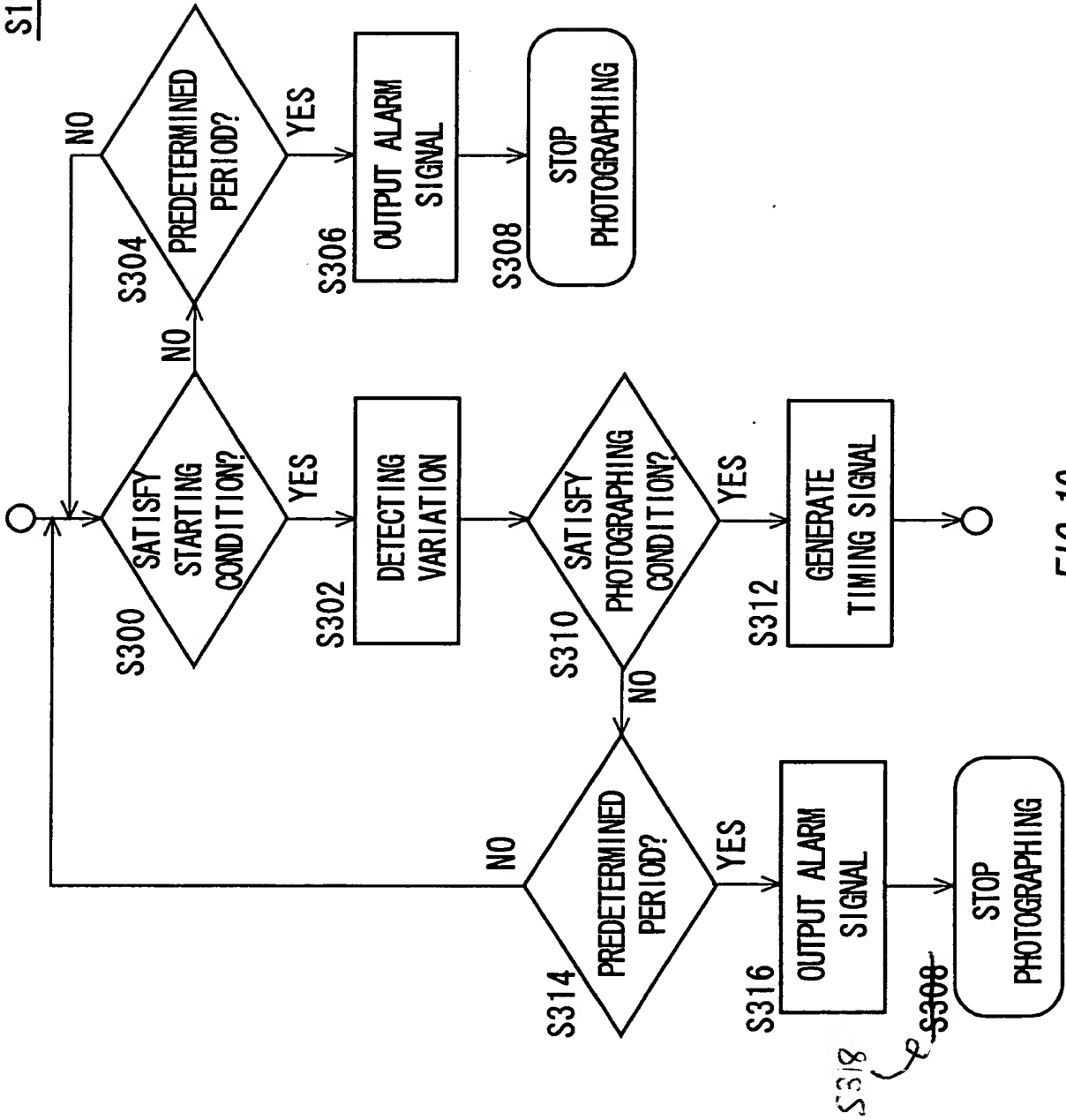


FIG. 19